

REMARKS

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the new revised requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Objections

Claims 14-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 14 line 1, it appears that "claw" should be inserted before "assembly". In claim 17 line 6, it appears that "support plate" should be changed to "support plates". Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 14 and 17 have been amended and it is respectfully submitted are now proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Long (U. S. Patent No. 4,890,400).

Long discloses a plow and claw assembly including a conventional plow 12, an elongated support member 52, claw plate 22 and means for rotating (19, 60 &

48) as shown in figures 1-6. Concerning claim 9, members 24 and 25 are considered rotatable flanges. Concerning claim 11, members 24, 25, 26 are considered tines.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long (U. S. Patent No. 4,890,400) in view of Evans et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,992,062).

Long discloses an assembly as described previously, but lacks the claw plate being serrated.

Evans et al. teaches that it is known in the art for a digging edge to be serrated to enhance the ability of an implement to cut or slice through soil. A serrated edge can cut, claw, dig, slice or scrape more effectively than a non-serrated edge. Evans also discloses the use of curved tines (considered the combination of the adapters 68 and teeth 62, 64, 66), which similarly enhances the ability of an implement to cut or slice through soil.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Long, by forming the plate 22 with a serrated edge and curved tines as taught by Evans et al., to allow the device to more effectively dig, scrape or excavate.

Claims 7-13 have been canceled and it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot.

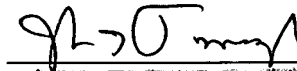
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-20 are allowed.

Claims 7-13 have been canceled and claims 14 and 17 amended to overcome formal objections.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

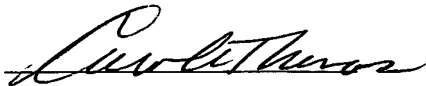


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: April 20, 2005 Signature: 

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